exttnguishable sense of a higher and braver propriety."** It is this consciousness of a higher propriety and a nobler civility in the Prince that enables and authenticates his moral education.

It is a chance occurrence which confirms Maggie's unshaped suspicion of her husband's illicit relationship with Charlotte. One day she steps into a shop to buy a birth-day gift for her father, and buys the same golden bowl which Charlotte and the Prince had. earlier, thought of buying for her. Feeling that he had cheated Maggie over the sale of the cracked bowl, the shopkeeper arranges to meet her at her place with the intention of refunding part of her money. In the reception room, he recognizes the portraits of Charlotte and the Prince, and recounts to Maggie their visit to his shop with all the details; her suspicions confirmed, Maggie sends for Fanny, who blandly lies to her about her own knowledge of the whole affair. Fanny then seizes the bowl and dashes it to the ground in an attempt to destroy the tell-tale object, and thus avoid unpleasantness and bitterness for all concerned. The Prince himself enters the room dramatically, and is confronted by Maggie's knowledge of the whole affair. He now knows that Maggie knows everything, but he desires to know how much Adam Verver knows. Maggie does not give him a direct reply, but tells him to find it out himself. The scene is memorable for the admirable way in which Maggie conducts herself. She does not directly accuse the Prince to his face, nor does she thunder out her "protests of passion, the rages of jealousy/' In fact, she gives him time to regain his composure, and quietly makes him realize that she knows everything. Maggie could have brought her husband within her power through her knowledge of truth, but she abstains from doing so. She rather chooses to bring him, not under the control of a personal system of expediency - for that would be tantmount to the unpardonable sin of meddling with another human heart - but under the free, untramelled impersonal influence of truth

itself. By thus disengaging truth from its accessory human attributes, and from the demands of a furtive vindictiveness, she lets her husband's consciousness open out into the illuminating light of reality. Where personal complicity would have benighted truth and deprived it of its moral transforming power, her impersonal strategy of a knowledge detached from will preserves its vitality. And thus it is, when Amerigo comes under the power of truth, he comes within the range of Maggie's influence, too.